

Ethiopia – Complex Emergency

SEPTEMBER 30, 2020

SITUATION AT A GLANCE

115
MILLION

Estimated
Population
of Ethiopia

UN – 2020

19.2
MILLION

People in Need of
Humanitarian
Assistance

GoE and UN – August 2020

779,000

Estimated Number
of Refugees
in Ethiopia

UN – August 2020

8.5
MILLION

Estimated Number
of People in Need
of Food Assistance

IPC – July-September 2020

- An estimated 8.5 million people in central, eastern, northern, and southern Ethiopia experienced severe food insecurity between July and September. Food insecurity is expected to remain atypically high across the country through the first half of 2021, with up to 11 million people facing severe food insecurity due to multiple factors, including elevated food prices and limited access to income-generating opportunities.
- Heavy June-to-September *kiremt* rains have triggered widespread flooding, displacing nearly 293,000 people in six regions and adversely affecting approximately 1 million people.



TOTAL U.S. GOVERNMENT HUMANITARIAN FUNDING

For the Ethiopia Response in FY 2020

USAID/BHA^{1,2} \$522,232,575³

State/PRM⁴ \$129,904,934

Total \$652,137,509⁵

For complete funding breakdown with partners, see detailed chart on page 5

¹ USAID's Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (USAID/BHA).

² Total USAID/BHA funding includes non-food humanitarian assistance from the former Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance and emergency food assistance from the former Office of Food for Peace.

³ Humanitarian funding for the complex emergency in Ethiopia includes nearly \$10.8 million for the ongoing desert locust response. For additional information regarding the Ethiopia desert locust response, please refer to the USAID/BHA East Africa Desert Locust Crisis Fact Sheet.

⁴ U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (State/PRM)

⁵ This total includes nearly \$43.5 million in supplemental funding through USAID/BHA and State/PRM for COVID-19 preparedness and response activities.

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

High Food Prices, Reduced Incomes Contribute to Elevated Food Insecurity

Despite the ongoing provision of humanitarian food assistance, approximately 8.5 million people in central, eastern, northern, and southern Ethiopia likely experienced Crisis—IPC 3—or worse levels of acute food insecurity between July and September 2020, according to a September IPC analysis.⁶ Although October-to-January *meher* season harvests may support some improvements in food security, below-average agricultural production, conflict and climate-induced displacement, and elevated food prices will continue to result in heightened food assistance needs, with an estimated 6.7 million people remaining in Crisis or worse conditions through December. Overall, the Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET) expects food assistance needs in Ethiopia to remain atypically high through at least early 2021, with populations in central and northern Afar Region, the pastoral lowlands of Oromiya Region, and much of Somali Region likely to continue experiencing Crisis conditions through at least January.

Poor macroeconomic conditions and coronavirus disease (COVID-19)-related movement restrictions have contributed to rising food prices and reduced access to income-generating activities across Ethiopia in recent months, resulting in decreased household purchasing power, particularly among poor households. Despite ongoing control operations, desert locust infestations are further threatening food security in northern and northeastern Ethiopia, causing the damage or destruction of approximately 1.1 million acres of crops and forage as of June, according to FEWS NET. Meanwhile, conflict and climate-driven displacement continues to cause loss of livelihoods, with approximately 1.2 million people displaced due to conflict as of July, according to the International Organization for Migration (IOM), and an additional 600,000 people internally displaced due to climatic factors including drought and floods.

FEWS NET anticipates that upcoming *meher* harvests will be slightly below-average due to limited agricultural input availability amid COVID-19-related supply chain disruptions, as well as damage caused by recent heavy *kiremt* season flooding in parts of Afar, Amhara, Oromiya, Southern Nations, Nationalities, and Peoples (SNNP), and Somali regions. Moreover, projected below-average October-to-December *deyr* rains in Somali and average to below-average *belg* rains across much of eastern and southern Ethiopia will likely reduce food availability and drive further food price increases. As such, up to 11 million people in Ethiopia could face Crisis or worse levels of acute food insecurity in the absence of sustained humanitarian assistance during the January-to-June lean season, according to the IPC analysis.

Kiremt Season Floods Displace 293,000 People, Adversely Affect 1 Million

On September 1, the Awash River broke its embankment and flooded downstream areas in Afar, displacing more than 25,000 people in Afar's Fentale *woreda* alone and inundating approximately 40,000 acres of cropland in Afar's Amibara and Nahirka *woredas*. The NDRMC is coordinating with regional governments in Afar and Oromiya to evacuate people stranded by recent flooding events. Similarly, more than 20,000 flood-affected people were evacuated from Haro Hadi town in Oromiya's East Shewa Zone during the first week of September, following the overflow of the Awash River and Lake Beseka, according to the NDRMC.

As of early September, flooding triggered by heavy *kiremt* rains had displaced nearly 293,000 people in Afar, Amhara, Gambella, Oromiya, Somali, and SNNP regions and adversely affected an approximate total of 1 million people throughout Ethiopia, according to the Government of Ethiopia (GoE) National Disaster Risk Management Commission (NDRMC). The NDRMC warns that flood-related impacts on water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) and shelter conditions have also elevated the risk of COVID-19, as well as cholera and

⁶ The Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) is a multi-partner initiative that developed a standardized scale to classify the severity and magnitude of food insecurity. The IPC scale, which is comparable across countries and time, ranges from Minimal—IPC 1—to Famine—IPC 5—for acute food insecurity.

other waterborne diseases, spreading among flood-affected populations. In response, the UN Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) allocated \$8 million to provide emergency assistance to people affected by flooding and related cholera outbreaks in Afar, Oromiya, Somali, and SNNP in late August.

On September 16, the GoE and UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) released a response plan for the 2020 *kiremt* floods, requesting \$40 million for flood relief efforts through November. The plan—which identifies priority humanitarian needs and outlines an operational strategy for relief partners—requests funds to support the provision of search and rescue, health care, and protection services, as well as emergency food, nutrition, and WASH assistance, among other activities, in flood-affected communities across Ethiopia.

USAID/BHA contributed more than \$4.5 million in dedicated FY 2020 support to flood relief efforts, working with humanitarian partners—including IOM and the International Rescue Committee (IRC)—to distribute food assistance and non-food items, as well as provide shelter and WASH support, to nearly 430,000 people affected by flooding. USAID/BHA staff based in the capital city of Addis Ababa also continue to monitor the flooding in Gambella, Oromiya, Somali, and SNNP to identify any emerging humanitarian needs.

Ethiopia Faces Largest Known COVID-19 Outbreak in East Africa

The UN World Health Organization (WHO) had recorded nearly 75,400 confirmed cases of COVID-19 across Ethiopia—including 1,198 related deaths—as of September 30. The known caseload is the highest in the East Africa region and the fourth-highest on the African continent following Egypt, Morocco, and South Africa.

After declaring a state of emergency due to COVID-19 in April, the GoE instituted several mitigation measures, including closures of international and domestic borders and schools, limitations on domestic transportation services, and the prohibition of public gatherings. The restrictions have led to reduced labor migration and livestock sales, according to a September IPC report. While GoE control measures remain in place, relief actors report limited adherence among populations facing continued difficulty in finding income-earning opportunities to meet basic needs, likely contributing to the ongoing spread of COVID-19.

To limit further transmission, USAID/BHA and State/PRM partner the UN Children’s Fund (UNICEF) is providing critical water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) support in IDP and refugee camps across Ethiopia, as well as messaging on COVID-19 prevention measures—reaching more than 570,000 refugees and more than 135,000 IDPs from March through mid-September. IDPs and refugees in Ethiopia face a particularly high risk of coronavirus transmission, as they are more likely to reside in multi-generational households in congested spaces with limited access to basic services.

UN Revises Ethiopia HRP Due to Impact of COVID-19, Floods, and Locusts

In late August, the GoE NDRMC and the UN issued a second revision of the 2020 Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) for Ethiopia in response to the worsening humanitarian impact of COVID-19-related restrictions, desert locust infestations, and conflict- and flood-related displacement, among other factors. The revised HRP estimates that 19.2 million people across the country will require humanitarian assistance in 2020, nearly triple the 7 million people identified by the original 2020 HRP released in January, prior to WHO’s declaration of a global COVID-19 pandemic in March.

KEY FIGURES



7 Million

People Supported
Monthly Through USG
emergency food
assistance



\$7.1 Million

In dedicated USAID
support for life-saving
health care programming



23

Number of USG
implementing partners
providing WASH
programming



\$18.8 Million

In dedicated USAID
support for programs to
prevent and treat acute
malnutrition

U.S. GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

FOOD SECURITY

In response to acute food needs across Ethiopia, USAID/BHA is supporting the UN World Food Program (WFP) and international non-governmental organizations (NGOs) Catholic Relief Services (CRS), IRC, and Save the Children to provide emergency food commodities—including U.S.-sourced cereals, pulses, and vegetable oil—to Ethiopia's most vulnerable families. USAID/BHA partners also provide cash transfers to food-insecure households across the country, enabling them to purchase food from local markets. With more than \$443 million in FY 2020 funding, USAID/BHA partners are reaching approximately 7 million people in Ethiopia with food assistance on a monthly basis.

HEALTH

USAID/BHA supports IOM, the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF), and 14 NGOs to improve access to health care services across Ethiopia. Often integrated with nutrition and WASH programming, USAID/BHA provides medical supplies, supports health units, and trains community health workers to support urgent health needs. In addition, State/PRM partners, including the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and NGOs, support essential health interventions for refugees, asylum-seekers, and other vulnerable populations in Ethiopia.

WASH

USAID/BHA and State/PRM fund the provision of critical WASH assistance throughout Ethiopia to improve access to safe drinking water and prevent outbreaks of communicable diseases, such as cholera. With USAID/BHA support, IOM, UNICEF, and 20 NGO partners are conducting hygiene awareness sessions, rehabilitating water systems, and providing safe drinking water to IDPs and other people in need. In addition, State/PRM is supporting UNHCR to implement WASH activities that assist refugees sheltering across the country, including those fleeing Eritrea, Somalia, South Sudan, and Sudan.

NUTRITION

USAID/BHA partners are on the forefront of efforts to prevent and treat acute malnutrition across Ethiopia. Working through UNICEF, WFP, and 6 NGO implementing partners, USAID/BHA supports community- and evidence-based programs aimed at decreasing malnutrition-related morbidity and mortality by strengthening prevention efforts, as well as the identification and treatment of acute malnutrition, focusing on children and pregnant and lactating women in particular. USAID/BHA partners have continued to provide malnutrition prevention and treatment services during Ethiopia's ongoing COVID-19 outbreak, which has coincided with a notable increase in severe acute malnutrition cases as populations face multiple compounding crises.

SHELTER AND SETTLEMENTS

State/PRM and USAID/BHA support IDPs, refugees, and asylum-seekers in Ethiopia with critical shelter as they face the uncertainty and vulnerability of displacement. With USG funding, IOM, UNHCR, and NGO partners provide safe and dignified living conditions that align with humanitarian standards, including through the distribution of shelter kits and other relief commodities and the provision of coordination and management services at camps and informal settlements.

CONTEXT IN BRIEF

- Populations in Ethiopia frequently experience recurrent drought, seasonal flooding, intercommunal conflict, food insecurity, disease outbreaks, and limited access to health and WASH services, contributing to sustained humanitarian needs and an ongoing complex emergency.
- From 2015 to 2016, the former USAID Office of Food for Peace and Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance responded to Ethiopia’s worst drought in more than 50 years, which resulted in at least 10.2 million people requiring emergency food assistance. In 2017, drought conditions in previously less-affected pastoral areas of southeastern Ethiopia intensified after consecutive seasons of below-average rainfall, decreasing livestock herd sizes and impacting access to food and livelihoods opportunities.
- Localized intercommunal conflicts throughout 2018 exacerbated humanitarian needs and prompted widespread displacement in Ethiopia, with approximately 2.8 million people displaced internally by late 2018—the highest number of IDPs in any country for the year. In May 2019, the GoE initiated a process to return IDPs to prior areas of residence across the country, despite ongoing security concerns. Although the level of intercommunal conflict has decreased since 2018, conflict incidents and related displacement have continued through September 2020. Humanitarian organizations are responding to the acute needs of IDPs and returnees across the country as access and security conditions allow.
- On November 6, 2019, U.S. Ambassador to Ethiopia Michael A. Raynor redeclared a disaster for FY 2020 due to the complex emergency in Ethiopia.

USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE ETHIOPIA RESPONSE IN FY 2020¹

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	AMOUNT
FUNDING IN ETHIOPIA FOR THE COMPLEX EMERGENCY			
USAID/BHA			
Non-Food Assistance			
Action Against Hunger/USA	Multi-purpose Cash Assistance (MPCA); Nutrition; Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH)	Amhara, Oromiya	\$2,500,000
ACTED	Economic Recovery and Market Systems, WASH	Dire Dawa, Somali	\$1,300,000

CARE	MPCA, WASH	Oromiya, Somali	\$1,033,643
Catholic Relief Services (CRS)	Agriculture and Food Security	Oromiya, SNNP	\$2,033,156
Concern	Nutrition, WASH	Amhara	\$900,000
Ethiopian Red Cross Society	Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Amhara, Tigray	\$695,341
Food for the Hungry	Agriculture and Food Security	Amhara	\$1,348,175
GOAL	Nutrition, Protection, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Oromiya, Somali, SNNP	\$3,000,000
International Medical Corps (IMC)	Health, Protection, WASH	Oromiya, Somali	\$2,000,000
iMMAP	Humanitarian Coordination, Information Management, and Assessments (HCIMA)	Afar, Oromiya, Somali	\$700,000
IOM	HCIMA, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Countrywide	\$8,000,000
IRC	Nutrition	Countrywide	\$207,869
IRC	Protection	Amhara, Oromiya, Somali, SNNP	\$3,500,000
Mercy Corps	Agriculture and Food Security, MPCA, Nutrition, WASH	Oromiya, Somali	\$2,073,000
People in Need	Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Oromiya	\$2,026,887
Save the Children Federation (SCF)	Nutrition, WASH	Afar, Oromiya, Somali	\$3,000,000
Samaritan's Purse	Health, Shelter and Settlements	Oromiya	\$1,999,602
UN Department of Safety and Security	HCIMA	Countrywide	\$112,136
UN Food and Agriculture Organization	Agriculture and Food Security	Countrywide	\$10,778,689
UNICEF	Protection, WASH	Countrywide	\$8,900,000
UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)	HCIMA	Countrywide	\$9,000,000
VSF/G	Agriculture and Food Security, WASH	Afar	\$1,261,001
	Program Support		\$8,806
TOTAL NON-FOOD ASSISTANCE FUNDING			\$66,378,305
Food Assistance			
CRS/Joint Emergency Operations Plan	215,160 Metric Tons (MT) of U.S. In-Kind Food Assistance; Cash Transfers for Food	Amhara, Dire Dawa, Oromiya, SNNP, Tigray	\$126,605,985
IRC	3,010 MT of U.S. In-Kind Food Assistance	Countrywide	\$8,869,824
	1,800 MT of U.S. In-Kind Food Assistance	Countrywide	\$8,628,667
UNICEF	1,245 MT of Local, Regional, and International Procurement (LRIP)	Countrywide	\$4,500,000
WFP	114,704 MT of U.S. In-Kind Food Assistance; LRIP; Cash Transfers for Food; Nutrition; Complementary Services	Countrywide	\$279,850,597
TOTAL FOOD ASSISTANCE FUNDING			\$428,455,073
TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING			\$494,833,378
STATE/PRM			
Action Against Hunger/USA	Nutrition Assistance for Refugees	Gambella	\$1,935,000

Center for Victims of Torture	Mental Health and Psychosocial Support Services for Refugees	Gambella, Tigray	\$4,206,066
Dan Church Aid	Food Security, Livelihoods, and Nutrition for Refugees	Afar, Gambella	\$2,000,000
GOAL	Nutrition Assistance for Refugees	Afar, Gambella	\$1,387,435
IMC	GBV Prevention and Response, Mental Health and Psychosocial, Nutrition, and Reproductive Health Services for Refugees	Gambella, Somali	\$4,000,000
IRC	Multi-sectoral Assistance for Refugees	Benishangul-Gumuz, Somali, Tigray	\$4,167,323
Plan International	Child Protection, Education, and Psychosocial Services for Refugees	Gambella	\$966,263
SCF	Child Protection, Education, and Psychosocial Services for Refugees	Gambella, Somali	\$2,048,847
UN Humanitarian Air Service	Logistics Support and Relief Commodities	Countrywide	\$700,000
UNHCR	Protection and Assistance for Refugees	Countrywide	\$92,400,000
TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING			\$113,810,934
TOTAL USG FUNDING FOR THE COMPLEX EMERGENCY IN ETHIOPIA IN FY 2020			\$608,644,312

FUNDING IN ETHIOPIA FOR COVID-19 OUTBREAK PREPAREDNESS & RESPONSE²

USAID/BHA

Non-Food Assistance

Amref Health Africa	Health, WASH	Afar, Benishangul Gumuz, Gambella, Somali	\$700,028
CARE	Health, Protection, WASH	Oromiya	\$300,000
CRS	Health, WASH	Oromiya, SNNP, Tigray	\$861,000
Food for the Hungry	Health, WASH	Amhara, Benishangul Gumuz, Oromiya	\$500,000
Humanity & Inclusion	Protection, WASH	Dire Dawa, Benishangul Gumuz, Somali	\$900,000
IMC	Health, Protection, WASH	Oromiya	\$1,099,507
IOM	Health, Protection, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Oromiya, SNNP, Somali	\$1,000,000
IRC	Health, WASH	Amhara, Dire Dawa, Oromiya, SNNP, Somali	\$1,800,000
Johns Hopkins University	Health, Protection	Amhara, Dire Dawa, Oromiya, SNNP, Somali	\$400,000
Lutheran World Federation	Health, WASH	Oromiya, Somali	\$499,974
Mercy Corps	Health, WASH	Oromiya, Somali	\$638,688
Pathfinder International	Health	Amhara, Oromiya, SNNP, Tigray	\$500,000
People in Need	WASH	Oromiya, SNNP	\$400,000
Project Hope	Health, WASH	Dire Dawa, Somali	\$400,000
OCHA	HCIMA	Countrywide	\$200,000
SCF	Health, Protection, WASH	Amhara, Dire Dawa, Oromiya, Somali	\$800,000

UNICEF	Health, WASH	Oromiya, Somali	\$700,000
World Vision	Health, WASH	Oromiya, SNNP	\$700,000
TOTAL NON-FOOD ASSISTANCE FUNDING			\$12,399,197
Food Assistance			
SCF	Cash Transfers for Food	Amhara, Dire Dawa, Oromiya, SNNP, Somali	\$9,000,000
WFP	LRIP	Countrywide	\$6,000,000
TOTAL FOOD ASSISTANCE FUNDING			\$15,000,000
TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING			\$27,399,197
STATE/PRM			
International Committee of the Red Cross	COVID-19 Preparedness and Response	Countrywide	\$2,425,000
IOM	COVID-19 Preparedness and Response	Countrywide	\$2,950,000
UNICEF	COVID-19 Preparedness and Response	Countrywide	\$2,030,000
UNHCR	COVID-19 Preparedness and Response	Countrywide	\$8,689,000
TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING			\$16,094,000
TOTAL USG FUNDING FOR COVID-19 OUTBREAK PREPAREDNESS & RESPONSE IN ETHIOPIA IN FY 2020			\$43,493,197

TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING FOR THE ETHIOPIA RESPONSE IN FY 2020	\$522,232,575
TOTAL State/PRM FUNDING FOR THE ETHIOPIA RESPONSE IN FY 2020	\$129,904,934
TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE ETHIOPIA RESPONSE IN FY 2020	\$652,137,509

¹ Year of funding indicates the date of commitment or obligation, not appropriation, of funds. Funding figures reflect publicly announced funding as of September 30, 2020.

² Figures represent supplemental International Disaster Assistance (IDA) and Migration and Refugee Assistance (MRA) funding committed for COVID-19 preparedness and response activities as of September 30, 2020.

PUBLIC DONATION INFORMATION

- The most effective way people can assist relief efforts is by making cash contributions to humanitarian organizations that are conducting relief operations. A list of humanitarian organizations that are accepting cash donations for disaster responses around the world can be found at [interaction.org](https://www.interaction.org).
- USAID encourages cash donations because they allow aid professionals to procure the exact items needed (often in the affected region); reduce the burden on scarce resources (such as transportation routes, staff time, and warehouse space); can be transferred very quickly and without transportation costs; support the economy of the disaster-stricken region; and ensure culturally, dietarily, and environmentally appropriate assistance.
- More information can be found at:
 - USAID Center for International Disaster Information: [cidi.org](https://www.cidi.org)
 - Information on relief activities of the humanitarian community can be found at [reliefweb.int](https://www.reliefweb.int).

USAID/BHA bulletins appear on the USAID website at [usaid.gov/humanitarian-assistance/where-we-work](https://www.usaid.gov/humanitarian-assistance/where-we-work)